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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,187	07/29/2003	Ronald G. Saward	65042-0437	7187

10291 7590 06/11/2004

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC  
39533 WOODWARD AVENUE  
SUITE 140  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-0610

EXAMINER

GORDON, STEPHEN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3612

DATE MAILED: 06/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/629,187

Applicant(s)

SAWARD, RONALD G.

Examiner

Stephen Gordon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-7, 10-12, 14 and 15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 8, 9, 13 and 16-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 July 2003 and 05 May 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7-29-03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: drawing red-line sheet.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 20-24 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention. Election was made **without** traverse in the paper filed 5-5-04.
2. It is requested that applicant cancel non-elected claims 20-24 in response to this action to facilitate the issue process if the application is ultimately allowed.
3. New corrected drawings are required in this application because the drawings filed 7-29-03 are informal. Applicant should additionally note, the proposed red-lined drawing figure filed 5-5-04 is not approved. Such figure appears to be a double inclusion of the figure included on sheet 5 with the 7-29-03 papers (i.e. the 5-5 submission includes "figure 12" on a separate sheet and the 7-29 submission includes a "figure 12" included with other figures on sheet 5). Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.
4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: proper reference to the relied upon provisional application should be included at the beginning of page 1 of the instant specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

5. Claims 4, 8-9, 13, and 16-19 are objected to because of the following informalities:

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Re claim 4, "the cargo area" should be —a cargo area—for added clarity.

Re claim 8, "cylindrical" should be —cylinder—for consistency. Additionally, line 2 is somewhat awkward, and —which—could be inserted after "portion" to clarify the claim in this regard.

Re claim 9, "the deflection" and "the tab" should be —a deflection—and —a tab— respectively for added clarity. Additionally, line 2 is somewhat awkward, and —which— could be inserted after "ribs" to clarify the claim in this regard.

Re claim 13, the claim should end in a period.

Re claim 16, —tab—should be inserted after "each" of line 9 for added clarity. Additionally, line 19 is somewhat awkward, and —which—could be inserted after "portion" to clarify the claim in this regard. In line 22, "the deflection" should be — deflection—for added clarity. Finally, line 23 is somewhat awkward, and —which—could be inserted after "ribs" to clarify the claim in this regard.

Re claim 19, the claim should end in a period.

Appropriate correction is required.

6. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

See objections in paragraphs 3-6 above.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

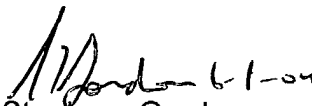
A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

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7. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-12, and 14-15 are allowed.
8. Claims 4, 8-9, 13, and 16-19 are objected to for the minor informalities noted above but are otherwise allowable.
9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Note at least Bateman teaches a loop engaging tie anchor for a cargo vehicle.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gordon whose telephone number is (703) 308-2556. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Stephen Gordon  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3612

stg